

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hydraulic circuit comprising:
 - a hydraulic pump;
 - a hydraulic actuator;
 - an accumulator fluidly connected between the hydraulic pump and the hydraulic actuator, the accumulator having an inflow passage through which a hydraulic fluid discharged from the hydraulic pump is introduced into a hydraulic fluid chamber of the accumulator and a discharge passage, independent of the inflow passage, from which the hydraulic fluid from the hydraulic fluid chamber is discharged to the hydraulic actuator, the accumulator not operating when the pressure in the hydraulic fluid chamber is less than a set pressure and operating when the pressure in the hydraulic fluid chamber is at least the set pressure; and
 - a valve mechanism which restricts the discharge of the hydraulic fluid from the hydraulic fluid chamber to the hydraulic actuator ~~when the pressure in the hydraulic fluid chamber is less than a set pressure~~ in a state in which the accumulator does not operate and which releases the restriction on the discharge of hydraulic fluid to the hydraulic actuator ~~when the pressure in the hydraulic fluid chamber is at least the set pressure~~ in a state in which the accumulator operates, wherein the valve mechanism has an air discharge passage for discharging air from the hydraulic fluid

chamber to the hydraulic actuator in [a] the state in which the accumulator does not operate.

2. (Original) A hydraulic circuit according to claim 1, wherein the valve mechanism is installed inside the accumulator.

3. (Previously Presented) A hydraulic circuit according to claim 2, wherein the accumulator operates by expansion and contraction of a bellows which divides a pressure space into a gas chamber and the hydraulic fluid chamber, and the valve mechanism comprising:

a pipe which is coaxially disposed in the inflow passage and forming the discharge passage at its center; and

a valve spool which is provided on a movable plate of the bellows and positioned so as to be able to fit into and disengage from the pipe and which valve spool has an air discharge hole as the air discharge passage.

4. (Withdrawn) A hydraulic circuit according to claim 2, wherein the accumulator operates by expansion and contraction of a bellows which divides a pressure space into a gas chamber and the hydraulic fluid chamber, the accumulator having a piston which moves with the bellows, and the valve mechanism comprising:

a pipe which is coaxially disposed in the inflow passage and forming the discharge passage at its center; and

a valve spool which is provided on the piston and positioned so as to be able to fit into and disengage from the pipe and which valve spool has an air discharge hole as the air discharge passage.

5. (Withdrawn) A hydraulic circuit according to claim 2, wherein the accumulator operates by expansion and contraction of a bellows which divides a pressure space into a gas chamber and the hydraulic fluid chamber, and the valve mechanism comprising:

a pipe which is coaxially disposed in the inflow passage of a cylindrical member and forming the discharge passage at its center;

an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed with the cylindrical member and projects towards the upper end of the hydraulic fluid chamber;

a cylindrical valve body which fits on the upper end of the pipe so as to be able to move up and down on the pipe and which can interfit with and disengage from the upper end of the upper cylindrical portion and which cylindrical valve body has an air discharge groove as the air discharge passage; and

a spring which is disposed between the cylindrical valve body and the upper cylindrical portion and which biases the cylindrical valve body upwards when the cylindrical valve body is pressed downwards by a movable plate of the bellows.

6. (Withdrawn) A hydraulic circuit according to claim 2, wherein the accumulator operates by expansion and contraction of a bellows which divides a pressure space into a gas chamber and the hydraulic fluid chamber, and the valve mechanism comprising:

a rod which is provided on a movable plate of the bellows and positioned so as to be able to fit into and disengage from the discharge passage; and

a sealing ring which fits on the outer periphery of the rod and positioned so as to be able to fit into and disengage from the discharge passage and which sealing ring has an air discharge groove as the discharge passage.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)